

# First-Class Mail Focus Group – Product Development

**MTAC** 

November 20, 2013

- Pulse of Industry
- **■** Commercial Single-Piece
- Alternate Postage Update
- Promotions
  - 2013 Promotions Calendar Update
  - 2014 Promotional Calendar Update
- Open Discussion



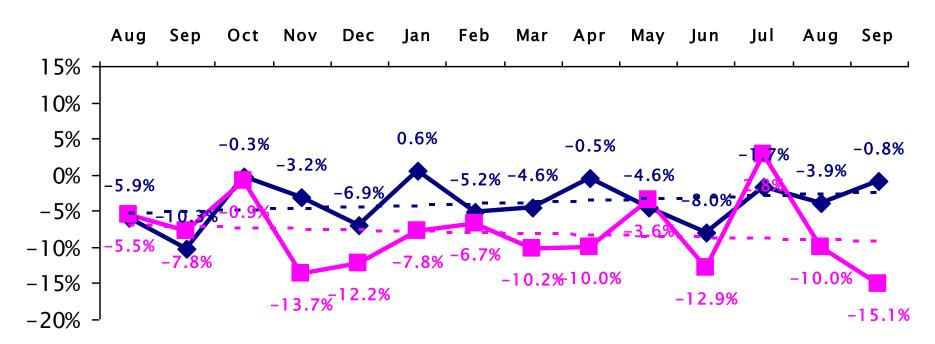


## USPS/Industry



# First-Class Mail Volume (% Change over SPLY)







# **Commercial Single-Piece**



- First-Class Mail Letters Residual Mail changes for January 2014:
  - Blended rate for combining 1 oz and 2 oz pieces
  - Option to separate pieces by weight and pay prevailing Single-Piece prices at the new meter price
  - Meter Rate can be used for residuals except when using the blended rate
- Task Team 21 reviewed and clarified eligibility and acceptance processes



# What is it? The "Meter Rate" is leading to confusion but this is what it covers;

- Proposed Meter Rate is available for all Single-Piece mail, whether mailed at retail or as residual in a commercial mailing
- Available for meter, permit imprint, precancelled stamps, PC postage
- Existing requirements for Single-Piece mail remain unchanged
- For permit imprint mailings, the minimum piece requirement of at least 200 pieces remains



# **Alternate Postage Update**



# **Creating a New Opportunity for the Mail**

Alternate Postage Payment: An easy, convenient way to send single-piece First-Class Mail® – letters and postcards – without a stamp or postage affixed

#### How does it work:

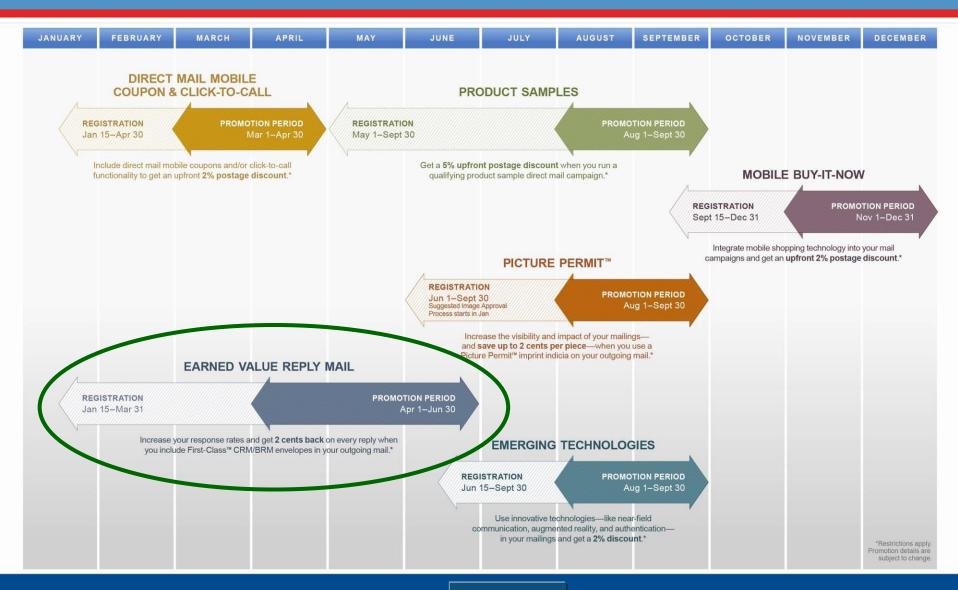
Alternate Postage Payment relies on Intelligent Mail ® technology:

- Sent from anywhere and charged back to a company
- Identifies and scans each unique mail piece as it moves through the postal system
- Counts the mailpieces during normal mail processing
- Uses the mail piece counts to debit the company's Centralized Automated Processing System (CAPS) account.
- Filed with PRC: November 5, 2013
- Target Launch Date: January 2014



# **2013 Promotions Calendar Update**



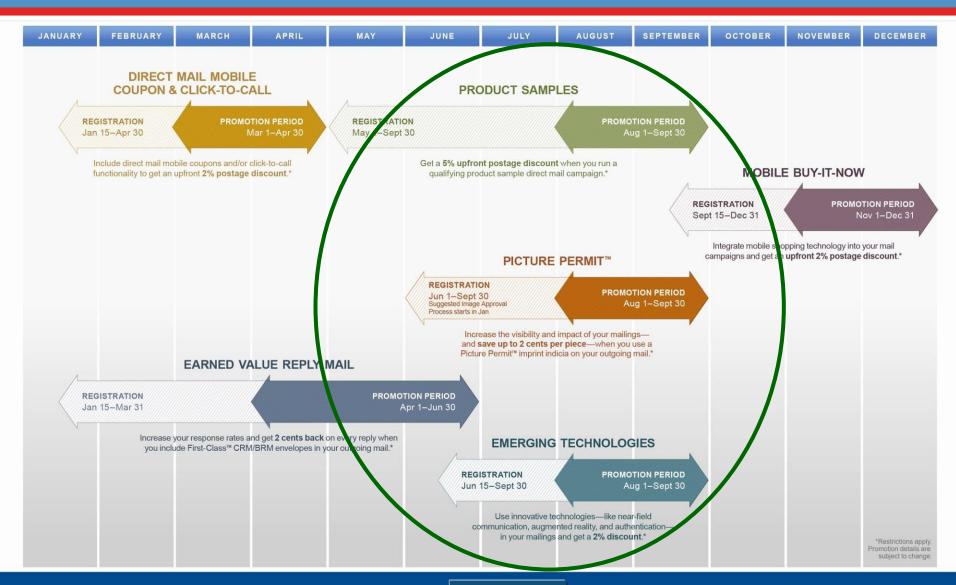




## **Earned Value – Status Update**

- Customers earned about \$10.7 million in credits
- 68% of acquired credits have been used:
  - 70% for FCM mailings
- **■** Customer Survey Results
  - 277 responses (114 MSPs, 163 mail owners)
  - 63% had never participated in a promotion
  - 65% enrolled to reduce mailing costs
  - Approx. 10% increased outgoing reply mail pieces as part of the promotion
  - One third said they would increase their mail volumes due Earned Value credit







# Emerging Technologies Promotion

August 1- September 30



- Approximately 90 participants
- Over 1 billion mailpieces qualified for promotion
- Over \$4.5 M in discounts
- 8% of eligible Standard Mail volume received the discount
- Very little participation in FCM
- Most participants used Augmented Reality
- Customer surveys being completed



#### **Product Samples Promotion**

#### August 1- September 30

- 520k mailings received discount
- Over \$500,000 in discounts
- 14% of total marketing parcel volume received discount
- Limited customer participation
  - Promotion timing & production time made it difficult customers to plan participation
  - eVS constraint
- Mailers who did participate used the savings to mail more volume
- Expect additional insights from surveys being completed this month





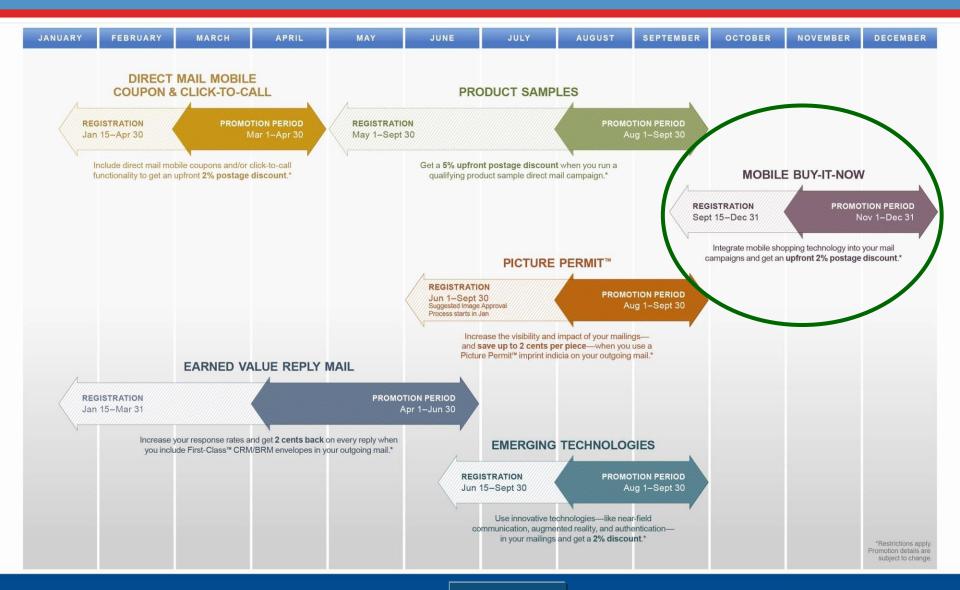


#### **Picture Permit Promotion**

- 10 mailers enrolled
- 343,461 = volume mailed
- \$4,830 = Picture Permit fees waived









## **Mobile Buy It Now Promotion**

## Initial Results (as of 11/12)

**Enrollment:** 450 mailers

Participating: 188 mailers

Volume: 522 million mailpieces

**Discount:** \$2.4 million

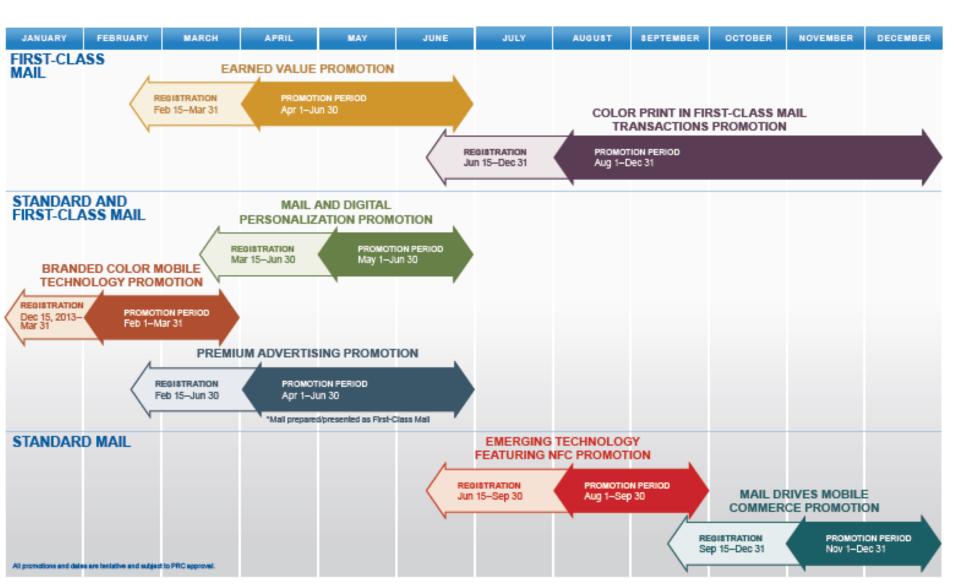




## **2014 Promotions**



## **Proposed 2014 Promotions**





## **General Updates**

- PRC response expected by end of November
- Additional requirements posted on RIBBS by end of November/early December
- External webinar planned for early December
- Quick Start guide for enrollment available in early December

#### **Branded Color Mobile Technology**

- Registration opens December 15
- Promotion Period: February March, 2014
- Eligible Mail:
  - Standard and Nonprofit Mail letters and flats
  - First-Class Mail presort and automation letters, cards and flats
- Discount: 2 percent per eligible mailpiece.
- Qualifying mailings must include either:
  - 1. A creative mobile barcode that incorporates **one** of the following:
    - a) two or more colors set against a background (other than black or white)
    - b) a trademark or graphic and at least one color (other than black or white)
  - 2. color digital image recognition technology

#### NEW

- Full Requirements posted on RIBBS
- External Webinar planned for January 2014



Scan here with your mobile device for more information.



#### **Earned Value Reply Mail Promotion**

Encourage USPS customers to continue to provide Business Reply Mail® (BRM) and Courtesy Reply Mail™ (CRM) as options for consumers to communicate with them.



- Registration Period: February 15 March 31
- Program Period: April 1 June 30
- Credit
  - >2 cents credit per eligible, returned CRM or BRM mailpiece.
  - ➤ Participants in the 2013 Earned Value Promotion whose CRM and BRM counts increase in 2014 will receive 3 cents per eligible mailpiece
- Credit Receipt/Redemption
  - ➤ Credit will be applied to the mailer's Permit Imprint account



# Premium Advertising Product Promotion

The promotion offers an upfront discount on First-Class Mail postage on letters composed entirely of marketing or advertising content.



- Promotion Period: April 1 June 30
- Eligible Mail: First-Class Mail® presort and automation letters (IMb full-service mailings)
- Discount: 15% off presort FCM
- Eligible Participants: Customers who mailed \$6 million or more in Standard Mail letter postage in FY 2013
- New Eligible Customers contacted by USPS by Dec 20,2013
- Postage Payment: Permit Imprint only





# Mail & Digital Personalization Promotion

- Both the mailpiece and PURL/website must be customized and/or personalized to qualify for this promotion.
- Registration: March 15 June 30
- Promotion Period: May 1 June 30
- Eligible Mail:
  - > Standard Mail letters and flats
  - > Nonprofit Standard Mail letters and flats
  - > First-Class Mail presort and automation letters, cards and flats
- Discount: 2% per eligible mailpiece.
- NEW Program requirements to be posted on RIBBS/usps.com in early December





#### Mail & Digital Personalization Promotion

#### **Mailpiece Requirements**

- Must be relevant and highly personalized to the recipient, and
- Contents based on, information about the recipient such as:

- Name

- Buying behavior

- Age

- Preferences

- Birthday

- Online behavior



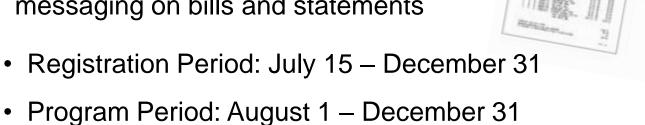
#### **Webpage Requirements**

- Urls, or print-mobile technology must lead to a personalized landing page
- Destination webpage must provide highly personalized content
- Must have a unique url that enables the mailer the ability to track and monitor individual mail recipient response and web activity



# Color Print in First-Class Mail Transactions Promotion

Encourage FCM mailers to use color messaging on bills and statements



- Eligible Mail: First-Class Mail® presort and automation letters (IMb full-service mailings)
- Upfront 2% postage discount
- Mailpiece must have <u>dynamic</u> color printing on the bill or statement
- Color messaging must be marketing or consumer information
  - Color inserts and pre-printed color paper stock, do not qualify
  - Color in transactional fields will not qualify



# **Color Print in First-Class Mail Transactions Promotion**

1. Pre printed color paper stock does not qualify

Color content is marketing or consumer information

3. Color messaging is dynamically printed



**Pending PRC approval** 

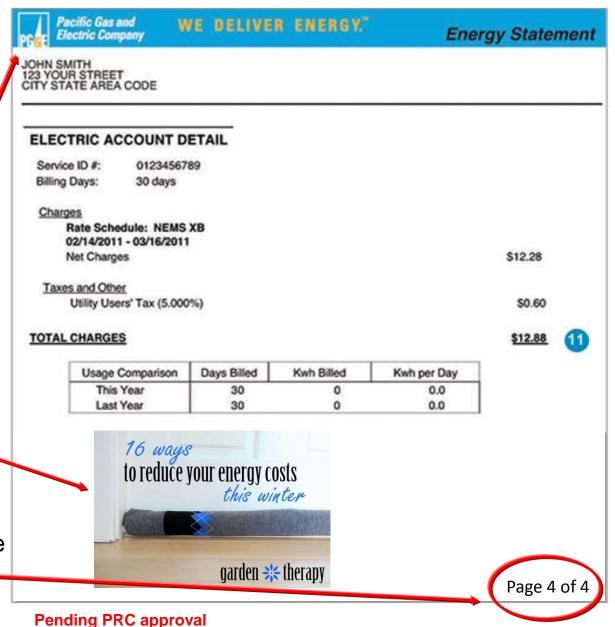


# Messaging at end of statement

Includes same header or footer as other pages

Messaging within contents of the bill/dynamically printed

Must appear as part of the statement





## MTAC User Group #8

- Initial meeting December 3rd
  - Co-Lead Industry, Rose Flanagan, Data Mail/MTAC
     Product Development Industry Lead
  - Co-Lead Industry, Sush Parikh, AT&T
  - > Co-Lead USPS, Krista Becker
  - > USPS MEPT Representative (TBD)
- Group meets monthly (or bi-monthly if needed)
- Discuss mailing promotion ideas and implementation issues surrounding current promotions



## **Open Discussion**